

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

The invention relates to a A cutting device for cutting trenches in the ground having at least one cutting wheel drivable in rotary manner and at least one first cutting element, located on the cutting wheel, for removing soil material during a rotation of the cutting wheel in one rotation direction. On said cutting wheel is provided at least one second cutting element for removing soil material in an oppositely directed, second rotation direction, at least one of the cutting elements is displaceably mounted between a first position for removing soil material and a retracted, second position and a control device is provided for the displacement of the cutting element between the first and second positions.